

REMARKS

Claims 16-30 are pending in this application. Claims 25-30 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as directed to non-elected subject matter. Claims 16-24 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and/or as indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks below, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 16-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bronson¹ in view of Mojonnier².

Claim 16, as amended, is directed to a method for punching a part out of a larger part along a punch line. The method comprises placing the larger part on a first bearer and moving a cutting die from one side in a first direction towards the larger part. The larger part is clamped by the first bearer and a clamping edge of the cutting die on the side of the larger part. The part is made of a material comprising molded fibre material. The part is punched out and moved away from the larger part by the cutting die. The punched out part is transported with a second bearer of the die relative to the punch line opposite to the clamping edge. The second bearer is in the first direction upstream from the punch line.

The Office Action states that “Bronson teaches that the material is a fibrous material.”³ Specifically, Bronson discloses a method of manufacturing formed articles from fibrous material such as paper.⁴ Claim 26 recites that the part comprises “moulded fibre material”. Bronson does not teach a molded fiber material. This deficiency is not overcome by Mojonnier.

¹ U.S. Pat. No. 1,904,268 to Bronson (“Bronson”).

² U.S. Pat. No. 3,461,756 to Mojonnier (“Mojonnier”).

³ Office Action at page 3.

⁴ Bronson at pg. 1, lines 1-4.

Furthermore, neither reference teaches that the punched out part is transported with a second bearer of the die relative to the punch line opposite to the clamping edge. For example, the above-captioned specification illustrates that the punched out part is transported in a direction upstream from the arrows as shown in Fig. 2. Neither Bronson nor Mojonnier teach this.

Mojonnier discloses clamping blocks 91 being separate from the cutting block die 88. However, claim 26, as amended, recites “a clamping edge of said cutting die”. Thus, the clamping edge is part of the cutting die.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention because claim 24 recites “the further bearer”. Claim 24 has been amended to recite “a second bearer.” Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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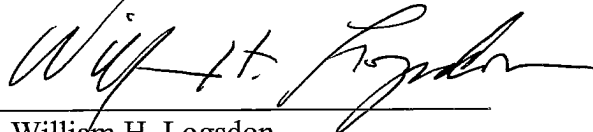
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections asserted in the Office Action and allowance of claims 16-24 and rejoinder of claims 25-30.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By



William H. Logsdon
Registration No. 22,132
Attorney for Applicants
436 Seventh Avenue
700 Koppers Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Telephone: (412) 471-8815
Facsimile: (412) 471-4094
E-mail: webblaw@webblaw.com